First Christian Church of Freedom
THE CHURCH IN THE VILLAGE | ESTABLISHED IN 1858

Freedom Rings

Newsletter
March/April, 2018

Pastors Ramblings!

LENT-EASTER, 2018

It's been a strange winter with a deep freeze early on, then snow, and now signs of Spring. The church year has also been a bit different, with Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day, and Easter coming up on April Fools Day. The whole month of March winds up in Lent, while April will envelop the Easter season. So, this newsletter will cover both.

Lent has lost a lot of its austere-ness, if that's a word. In former times it was noted for its somber nature. There would be no weddings or baptisms, flowers were often banned from the altar, and people were encouraged to 'give up' sweets or bad habits. Extra services were added, and members were to spend extra time in prayer and meditation. All of this was done to show our 'empathy' with the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus on his way to the cross. For 40 days, plus Sundays, leading up to Good Friday, believers were to observe a 'holy Lent'. For better or worse, we don't follow that pattern any more. We do manage to start with ashes on the first day. We still sing the traditional hymns and read the controversial lessons, but many of the previous practices have been lost. Hopefully, this has not lessened the importance of our faith, or the impact that God's act in Christ has on us.

Traditions have many meanings. They create a mood and convey a message that gives substance to our beliefs and understandings. The Lenten practices enhanced the Easter celebration. The Easter celebration led to the Pentecost experience. It all led to a deeper and more vibrant faith. Do you remember the Lents and Easters of the past? Were they good memories, bad memories, or completely irrelevant? Are there new traditions to be started? Many have suggested that instead of 'fasting' or 'sacrificing' during Lent, we should be 'feasting' on new things. The following might offer a good response:

"Fast from judging others; feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from emphases on differences; feast on the unity of all life.
Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.

Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from envy; feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.
Fast from worry; feast on God's plan.
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.
Fast from negatives, feast on affirmatives.
Fast from unrelenting pressures, feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from revenge; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.
Fast from discouragement; feast on hope.
Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire."

With our Council President away for part of this winter, I am filling in until his safe return. We wish Dean and Judy Robertson a relaxing time in the Sunshine State!
Here in Freedom we began our Lenten Season with the Ash Wednesday Service that was well attended. We might contemplate a writing by Richard Rohr*in the book GOD FOR US : "Lent is intended to lead us into an always hidden future and an always greater opportunity, and it is in truth a future created by God but still unknown to us. We now enter Lent with a new and open horizon, ready to both expect and work for God's ever new springtime."

Our future is filled with mystery, opportunity, God's truth and the renewal of life. It is up to us to spend the time before Easter in contemplation, prayers and openness to God's purpose for us. Here at FCCOF we are blessed by the ministries of our Pastor Larry and our Director of Music, Carolyn Olzerowicz. We are blessed, as well, by committees of purpose, working hard to maintain the physical and the spiritual Church. You will find reports of their activities in this newsletter. I won't repeat what Leaders and Chair people have recorded. But I will thank each of them and all the members for work done to keep us warm and safe, financed, welcomed and nourished, sustained and uplifted by the Holy Spirit intent on furthering the life of this Body of Christ. Your efforts, small and great, known and unknown, are the bread of angels.

Spring comes slowly in New England as the light returns. Snow and ice melt away eventually, the darkness fades and new life unfurls its colors. We will travel once more through Holy Week and rejoice on Easter Sunday with flowers, Alleluias and prayers of gratitude to God for our abundant lives and Jesus' triumph over death. Things change from month to month, and we help one another adjust to fresh opportunities. God's future plans for us are hidden indeed. But we are moving through our days together, professing our Faith and raising our Hope for His Eternal Spring. Each thing we do in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit helps address the greater opportunities opening to us as Christians. From thought-filled Lent through the celebration of the Resurrection, and on into all the seasons created for us, may we continue as One in the Spirit, working together for God's ever new Springtime.
Gale Morris, Council Vice President

All are invited to Camp Calumet each week on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for a group discussion of the scripture lessons for the coming week and how the lessons relate to daily living. **Bible Study** is held in the Camp Calumet Conference Center on the right as you go west on Lake Ossipee Road. Please see Pastor Larry if interested.

"B. I. B. L. E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!"
Anonymous

PASTORAL VISITS

Should anyone wish to have a pastoral visit or communion, please speak to Pastor Larry, a deacon, or Patty in the church office.

A NOTE FROM THE USHERS

We are in need of ushers. If you are interested, or if you are currently an usher and no longer wish to serve for your specified month, either because of health issues or other concerns, please call Mark McKinley at 539-6577 or Henry Granahan at 539-5295. Please know that your faithful service continues to be deeply appreciated and does much to reinforce the welcoming attitude of First Christian Church. If you have not participated, and would like to consider becoming an usher on Sunday mornings, please contact Mark. Thank you.

TREASURER'S REPORT

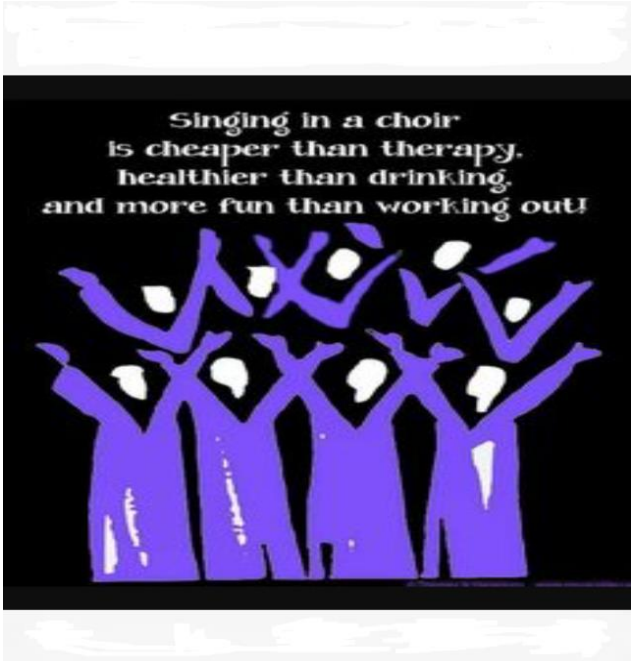
Church expenses are $4,400 higher than income through February 13, 2018. Fuel oil and furnace repairs are up and Pledge and Loose giving continues to fall behind budget. Generally speaking overall giving is down continuing a pattern seen last year. Pledge and Loose giving would need to increase 5% from prior year levels to cover the expenses of the Church. The Finance

Committee will ask Council to consider ways to increase giving going forward.
For 2017, the Church had a deficit of $2,563 made up principally of a shortfall of $5,000 in Pledges and Loose and $3,000 in special year-end giving. Reduced spending made the giving shortfall better.

December 31, 2017 Fund Balances:

1. The Capital Fund has $34,700 available for church capital improvements.
2. The Flower, Pastor Discretionary and Food Pantry Funds all have very healthy balances.
3. The Parsonage Fund had a deficit at the end of 2017 but is slightly positive as of 2/13/2018.
4. The G Davidson Scholarship, Perpetual and Church Funds continued to grow in 2017 from strong investment performance in 2017.

The investment portfolio grew 11.6% in 2017, a very strong performance. January 2018 continued the trend but an equity market correction in the past few weeks has given back all of January 2018's gains and some of 2017's gains. As of February 09, 2018 the investment portfolio gave back 1.5% of the 11.6% gained in 2017. Rising interest rates spooked the equity markets in 2018 but strong corporate fundamentals and earnings should show some recovery over the balance of 2018. The Church has adequate liquidity to meet its obligations. Investments are held securely at Vanguard and TD Ameritrade.
If you have any questions about any financial matters of the Church, please do not hesitate to speak with me, any Church officer or member of the Finance Committee.
Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Olzerowicz



I came across this gem while perusing Facebook. It is from an essay entitled "On Church Music" by C. S. Lewis. He is writing about church musicians who succeed in the intention of glorifying God in their music.
" I think the performers are the most enviable of men; privileged while mortals to honor God like angels and, for a few golden moments, to see spirit and flesh, delight and labour, skill and worship, the natural and the supernatural, all fused into that unity they would have had before the Fall."
Sometimes, when the choir is singing, it feels just like the "few golden moments" described above. We have a wonderful choir. Come, be a part of it!
Carolyn Olzerowicz

On March 18th, a St. Patrick's Luncheon will be held immediately following the church service. We will be serving sandwiches and desserts with a suggested donation of $5/person.

EASTER FLOWERS

Orders for Easter tulips, lilies, and daffodils will be taken on four Sundays in March during coffee hour after the service. Sign up for your choices at a cost of $10 each from Sunday, March 4 through Palm Sunday, March 25. Checks made out to the church should say "Easter Flowers" on the subject line.

Peg Scully

Children's Summer Theater Camp

The funds raised from the St. Patrick's luncheon will be used to supplement church funds and registration fees collected for the operation of the annual First Christian Church of Freedom Children's Summer Theater Camp. The camp is open to all children and traditionally attracts about 20 children ages 8-high school age. The charge is only $15/child for the entire week of camp. It will be held from July 30th-August 3rd. The children will spend the week acting, singing, and dancing. There will also be plenty of time for crafts and play as well. By Friday afternoon they will be ready to perform this year's play. And on Sunday, they will again perform the play for the First Christian Church of Freedom worship service.

Decorations and food will be funded by Thrivent Financial. All money raised that day will go to the music camp expenses.

This camp is a wonderful way to engage children from the community, many of who have never attended Sunday School or Church.

Nancy Wogman

The Children's Summer Music Camp will be performing "Life of the Party" on Friday, August 3rd at 2:30 PM and at the Old Home Week worship service on Sunday, August 5th at 10 AM. I will be sending out information and registration forms by the end of next week. If you know of a child who is at least 7 years old and might be interested in attending the camp let me know. I'll include them on the mailing list.

Carolyn Olzerowicz

Nathaniel & Carolyn Anderson, Kathy Avery, Tarryn Balch, Gerry Barnicle, Phil Beckwith, the family of Jim Blake, Charlie Bojus, Nancy Bossi, Ed Boyer, Harold Boynton, Kevin Boynton, Harold Brown Jr., Kathy Brownrigg, Virginia Casey, Eric Chamberlain, Carolyn Clancy, Celia Costa, Rebecca Crawford & Family, Greg, Dayton, Eric DeCof, Lorelei DeNisco, Connie Dockham, Sally Downey, Patty Dumas, David Eldridge, Delores Ellis, Bonnie Engroff, Bill Essex, Joanne Fuller, John Gallagher, Jane Garnsey, The Family of Michael Gaudette's sister-in-law, Cynthia Granahan, John Hogan, Karen Hopkins, Glenn Hormell, Velma

Hormell, Rob Hyam, Elmer Killam, Fred Kistler, Pauline Leclerc, Harold Libby, Sr., Jean Marshall, Mary Mayhew, Theresa Maura, Carol Melvidas, Judy Michaels, Gay Moceri, Peg Nichols, Peter Nichols, Pat & Roger Olson, Emily Plunges, DeMott Post, Faith Presley, Jeannie Rogers, Kim Rose, Marci Sharp, Kathleen Sherin, Tyler Sigler, Ruth Smart, Mike Sudak, Steve Tanis, Cheryl Vitum, Joy Anna Winslow, and all our country's military personnel and their families.

To ensure your prayer request is added to the list, please write the information down and place it in the offering plate, Patty's mail slot or on her desk. Thank you.

Good Morning Call! Several of us participate in this program offered by the Carroll County Sheriff's office. It is simple…..you make a call and talk to a real person…..if they do not hear from you, the Freedom Police stop by. It is reassuring that, during an emergency, either personal or weather related, someone knows where you are. Any questions…..call the Sheriff directly at 539-2284.

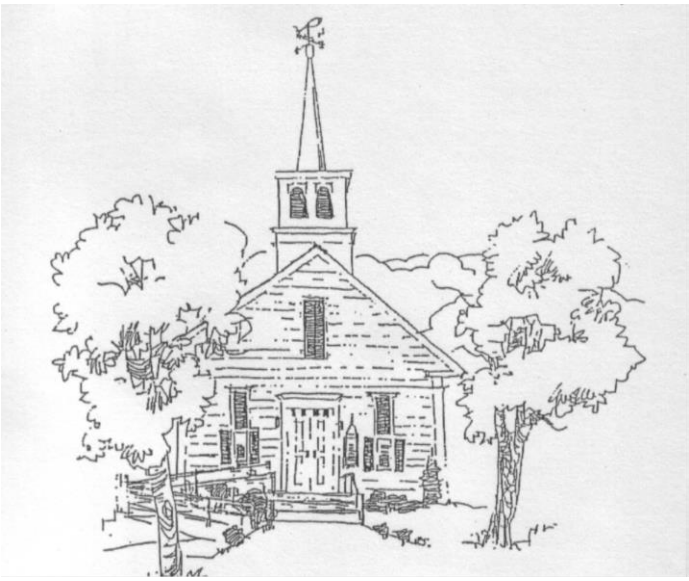
HELP WANTED

The finance team is looking for someone who will lead an ad-hoc committee to review the church insurance needs. This person would look at our current policies and make recommendations to the finance committee as to whether we need to make any changes. We have used the same company for several years and wonder whether we are getting the best value and service.

Please contact any member of the finance committee if interested.

Paul Olzerowicz paul@sentinelfnl.com
Ellie Bossdorf ebossdoft@yahoo.com
Barbara Buffery bryerbuff@aol.com

Thanks, Ellie Bossdorf



FCC application for State Registry of Historic Places

The mission of the Freedom Heritage Commission, started in 2009, is to identify, document and survey important historical

buildings in Freedom. Members have researched many buildings in town; six of these public and private buildings have been placed on the State Registry of Historical Places. By being listed on the State Register property owners are eligible to apply for grants and funding for improvement projects from sources like LCHIP (Land and Community Investment Program). Special relief from building codes and regulations may be granted, and membership in the NH Preservation Alliance provides a source for help in planning and education. Owners are free to maintain and manage their property as they see fit; no restrictions apply.

The Heritage Commission was ready to apply for State Register status for the FCC with Council approval, and still is. However, the Division of Historical Resources informed us when they did some research that an application has already been completed! In 1989, the survey document was done in detail by David Buswell, Skrow Works and a gentleman named David Ruell (let us know if you know who this person is or was). So 29 years ago, a year after the final addition to the church was built, the work was done on the survey complete with history, statistics and photos of our church. Our instructions now are to update the document and supply new photos which we will do this spring.

Thanks David, Skrow, and Mr. Ruell for your work! What a helpful source of information.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABILITY

The First Christian Church of Freedom has medical equipment available. If you have such a need, please contact George Thompson at 539-4601

Wheel Chairs	Commodes
Crutches	Potty Seats
Canes	Shower Chairs
Walkers	Blow-Up Mattress
Shower Transfer Benches	Knee Braces

Thank you to the Nason Family for their very generous donation of the following equipment: Slide Board (wheel chair to car), Step Stool, Transporter Chair, Bed Rails, Bike Pedal on Stand, Air Mattress w/pump

The following exercise equipment was also donated by the Nason Family:

Trapeze and Bike Pedal on Stand

FOOD PANTRY

The work at the food pantry goes on. It has been up and down. The weather has something to do with that. For instance, on the second Saturday of this month, we only served 2 families with 6-8 members. Most weeks it is anywhere from 9-14 families with as many as 30-40 members. We continue to get some nice used and clean clothes. Had some trouble with the computer the end of last month but got it worked out eventually. The number of meals runs consistently between 1500-2000 a month and meat continues to be a difficult item to keep in stock. Doris and Paul still do all the heavy lifting, buying and sorting. Also our volunteers show up rain or snow! The church is supporting a great ministry.

Bob Bossdorf, co-director

The Freedom Food Pantry needs volunteers to do some heavy lifting. We get a food delivery

once a month and don't have enough people to load and unload the truck. If you are able to help out, please contact Doris Sirois at 539-1339. Thank you.

The Fund Raising Committee is selling **"Rada Cutlery"** made in the USA as one of our fundraisers. This will not be a door-to-door event but samples will be on display at our events and ongoing. You may contact Judy Robertson, Velma Hormell or Patty Dumas in the church office if you are interested in checking out the catalog for paring knives, bagel knives, chef's knives, granny forks, pie or cake servers, steak knives, etc. which are available.

We have received the new catalog for 2018. Keep this extremely well-made cutlery in mind for gifts throughout the year and you will be supporting the church at the same time.
Velma Hormel

COME, CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK!

Palm Sunday, March 25th at 10 a.m.

This was when Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. We traditionally hand out palm crosses to remind us of the 'hosannas', but also his death a few days later. Special music and lessons mark the day.

Maundy Thursday, March 29th at 7 p.m.

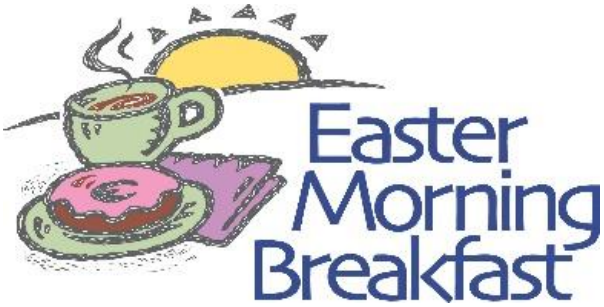
The anniversary of the Institution of the Lord's Supper. We'll have a service of Holy Communion as we remember Jesus gathering with the disciples on the night of his betrayal. It's a meaningful service, which ends with the stripping of the altar, representing the abandonment of the disciples after the betrayal by Judas.

Good Friday, March 30th at Noon

This marks the time of Jesus' crucifixion. We'll spend that hour contemplating the meaning of that event, and how it intersects with our life today. Why did the Son of God have to die? What does it mean to us and our faith? We'll follow an outline suggested by Pope John Paul II, which offers a reading and short meditation.

Easter Sunrise Service, April 1st at 7 a.m.

This is a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus at the Pavilion on Loon Lake. This is the climactic event of Jesus' life, and a joyous celebration of what he has done for us. It's usually cold, so bring a blanket.

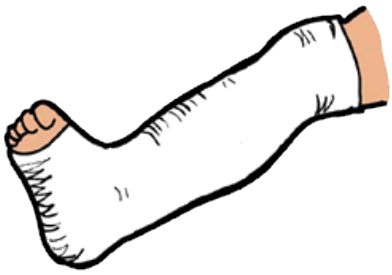


Easter Sunday Breakfast – April 1, 2018; coffee at 7:30 & Breakfast at 8am at Freedom Town Hall.

Service of the Resurrection, April 1st at 10 am

This is the time our congregation gathers to honor the Risen Christ and give thanks for God's great plan of salvation for all believers. Our hymns, prayers, sermon, choir anthem, and lessons all reflect the crux of our faith. Be sure to join us for this wonderful worship service, as well as the ones leading up to it.

FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY



I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your cards, prayers and kindness, during my foot surgery and recovery. Your caring makes it so much easier to cope. I'm on the mend. Hopefully, just a couple of more months off my foot and I'll be in good shape for camping this summer! Thank you again.

If you have any information for the office or for me, please leave it on my desk on Sunday mornings. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am to 1pm.
HAPPY SPRING EVERYONE!!
Sincerely, Patty Dumas

Theology as explained by children:

- The first book of the Bible is Guinessis, in which Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.
- Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.
- Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
- Unleavened bread is bread made without ingredients.
- Moses went to the top of Mt. Cyanide to get the 10 commandments.
- The 7th commandment is 'Thou shalt not admit adultery'.
- Joshua led the Hebrew in the battle of Geritol.
- David fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.
- Solomon has 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- The people who followed Jesus were call the 13 decibels.
- The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.
- One of the opossums was St. Paul preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
- A Godly person should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10am Book Club	2	3 10 am Food Pantry
4 9 am Choir 10am Sunday Service	5 9 am Ladies Guild	6 10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	7	8 9 am Deacons Meeting 10 am Book Club	9	10 10 am Food Pantry
11 9 am Choir 10am Sunday Service	12 9 am Ladies Guild	13 10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	14	15 10 am Book Club	16	17 10 am Food Pantry St. Patrick's Day
18 9 am Choir 10am Sunday Service St. Patrick's Luncheon after Church Service	19 9 am Ladies Guild	20 10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 7pm Council Meeting	22 10 am Book Club	23	24 10 am Food Pantry
25 9 am Choir Palm Sunday Service 10 am	26 9 am Ladies Guild	27 10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	28	29 10 am Book Club Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm	30 Good Friday Service at Noon	31

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Sunrise Service 7 am Easter Breakfast at 7:30 9 am Choir Easter Sunday Service 10 am	2 9 am Ladies Guild	3 10:00 am Bible Study at Calumet 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5 9am Deacons Meeting 10am Book Club	6	7 10 am Food Pantry
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